



**TESTIMONY FOR HB1296
ELECTRICITY – OFFSHORE WIND PROJECTS - ALTERATION**

Bill Sponsor: Delegate Wilson

Committee: Economic Matters

Organization Submitting: Maryland Legislative Coalition

Person Submitting: Cecilia Plante, co-chair

Position: FAVORABLE

I am submitting this testimony in favor of HB1296 on behalf of the Maryland Legislative Coalition. The Maryland Legislative Coalition is an association of activists - individuals and grassroots groups in every district in the state. We are unpaid citizen lobbyists and our Coalition supports well over 30,000 members. We represent the voices of constituents who share our concern over the harm that reliance on fossil fuels has wreaked in Maryland.

Our Coalition members strongly approve of measures to convert our energy grid to clean energy from solar and wind as soon as possible. We believe that the state should take an aggressive stance in moving in this direction.

This bill, if enacted, would allow companies that build offshore wind turbines to revise their project schedules, sizes, or pricing, including Offshore Wind Renewable Energy Credits (ORECs). This Revised Round 2 Offshore Wind Project Proceeding will start on June 1, 2024.

The goal is to support offshore wind companies by allowing them another opportunity to submit revisions to their already approved projects and also update the financing that they get from ORECs. It will also allow the Public Service Commission (PSC) to open up more lease space to other potential bidders. This will help with the state's ambitious goal to generate 8.5 gigawatts of electricity (enough to power almost 3 million homes) from offshore wind sources by 2031.

Our members appreciate that this legislation would help position Maryland more favorably to grow our offshore wind capacity. We support this bill and recommend a **FAVORABLE** report in committee.